

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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P R 302355Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1485

INFO SECDEF

JCS

USCINCSO

USCINCRED

CSA

CNO

CSAF

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3349

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL GT

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION FOR 548TH ENGINEER BATTALION - OPERATION
PRO-VIDA

1. MAJOR PART OF OUR US MILITARY EFFORT IN RELIEF OF THIS
DEVASTATED COUNTRY CAME TO A CLOSE ON APRIL 29 WITH THE SAILING OF
THE 548TH ENGINEER BATTALION AND ITS ATTACHED UNITS. THE TASK
FORCE LEAVES BEHIND A MONUMENT TO PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND HARD
WORK. THE ATLANTIC HIGHWAY IS AGAIN OPEN FROM THE SEA TO THE
CAPITAL AND TRAFFIC IS HEAVY AS THAT ECONOMIC LIFELINE RETURNS
TO FULL ACTIVITY.

2. THE MILITARY ENGINEERS HAVE BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF UNQUALIFIED
PRAISE FROM ALL LEVELS OF GUATEMALAN SOCIETY. THE PRESIDENT AHD
HIS CABINET, THE MAYORS OF THE TOWNS ALONG THE ROUTE, HUMBLE
TRUCK FARMERS AND LARGE COMMERCIAL FIRMS WHO DEPEND ON THE
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ROAD FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD HAVE ALL RECOGNIZED AND

PRAISED THE PRODIGIOUS ACIEVEMENTS OF THE US SOLDIERS.

3. THEIR EXEMPLARY SUCCESS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR MILITARY AND OUR SOCIETY HAS ALSO BEEN A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE TOT EH ENTIRE US MISSION. ON THE SOFTBALL DIAMONDS, THE VILLAGE SOCCER FIELDS, AND DURING INFREQUENT VISITS TO THE CAPITAL THEY HAVE BEEN TRUE AND WELCOME AMBASSADORS OF GOOD WILL.

4. I WILL NOT REITERATE HERE THE FORMIDABLE ENGINEERING STATISTICS WHICH APPEAR ELSEWHERE IN OFFICIAL REPORTS. I WISH TO SAY ONLY THAT THE ASSIGNED TASK WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN SUPERB FASHION AND IN GOOD TIME. THE ENGINEER BATTALION WAS, OF COURSE, THE CUTTING EDGE, BUT DESERVED TRIBUTE MUST BE PAID ALSO THE INTERSERVICE, INDEED INTERAGENCY, TEAM THAT PERFORMED SO MAGNIFICENTLY IN MARSHALLING, TRANSPORTING, SUPPORTING AND GUIDING THE OVERALL EFFORT. IT REPRESENTED THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AT ITS BEST.

5. I WARMLY COMMEND ALL CONCERNED ON A JOB SUPERBLY DONE.
MELOY

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